

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

7 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with General Norstad - November 7, 1961

Present: The President
Secretary McNamara
General Norstad
General Taylor

The discussion, which lasted approximately 45 minutes, covered the following points:

a. Relations with General Clay: General Norstad reported on his relations with General Clay in Berlin.

b. National Security Action Memorandum No. 109: In response to a question from the President as to how General Norstad anticipated dealing with an interruption of traffic on the autobahn, General Norstad commented on several features of National Security Action Memorandum No. 109.

[7 lines excised]

He indicated that he was not particularly impressed by the need of further mobilization in this period, but stressed the importance of taking some dramatic political action. As an example, he suggested that President Kennedy might summon Khrushchev to an emergency meeting in Berlin to talk over the crisis. The President expressed interest in this thought and directed the preparation of a memorandum to Secretary Rusk on the subject.

[7 lines excised]

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with General Horstad - November 7, 1961

Present: The President
Secretary McNamara
General Horstad
General Taylor

The discussion, which lasted approximately 45 minutes, covered the following points:

a. Relations with General Clay. General Horstad reported on his relations with General Clay in Berlin.

b. National Security Action Memorandum No. 102. In response to a question from the President as to how General Horstad anticipated dealing with an interruption of traffic on the autobahn, General Horstad commented on several features of National Security Action Memorandum No. 102.

He indicated that he was not particularly impressed by the need of further mobilization in this period, but stressed the importance of taking some dramatic political action. As an example, he suggested that President Kennedy might summon Khrushchev to an emergency meeting in Berlin to talk over the crisis. The President expressed interest in this thought and directed the preparation of a memorandum to Secretary Rusk on the subject.

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Asked how he expected to get our Allies to adjust to the policy contained in Memorandum 109, he expressed confidence in his ability to accomplish this. He intends to prepare for presentation to Washington a paper based upon Memorandum 109, which he believes can receive Allied acceptance and at the same time be consistent with the thoughts expressed by the President and the Secretary of Defense in Memorandum 109. He observed that, in its present form, this memorandum would create concern in NATO, particularly among the Germans. He mentioned several times there was ambiguous language in the paper as he read it, but that he would produce a document for his planners which stated clearly his understanding of the President's desires.

c. The Adenauer visit. General Norstad strongly recommended that Minister Strauss accompany Adenauer to the United States. Strauss himself has shown interest in coming, asking Norstad who in the past had kept him, Strauss, from seeing President Kennedy. The President asked that Strauss be informed that he would be very happy to see him, at an appropriate time, and indicated that he wanted State to prepare a program for negotiations with Adenauer. With regard to the new paper based on Memorandum 109 mentioned in the preceding paragraph, General Norstad undertook to have it in the hands of the President before Adenauer's arrival on November 20th.

d. Friedrichstrasse. Asked to comment on the situation in Berlin and possible future harassments of communications with the East Sector, General Norstad suggested that the next move might be to change our entry point.

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With regard to the showing of passes, Norstad feels that we should get together on a sensible position. He noted that we were showing passes at the subway station near Friedrichstrasse, whereas we declined to show passes above ground. The President directed a memorandum to the Department of State calling for a recommended position on the question of a change in the location of access and of the showing of identification documents.

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M.D.T.

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